



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5085

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZC-CG (385-10)

2 FEB 05

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 4ID (Mech) Safety Council Meeting

1. The Division Safety Council Meeting was conducted on 7 Jan 05 at 1300 hours.
2. The following members and guests were present or absent as indicated:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Division Commander | Chair | Present |
| ADC-M | Co-Chair | Present |
| ADC-S | Co-Chair | Authorized Absence |
| CoS | Member/Co-Chair | Present |
| Division CSM | Member | Present |
| Division Safety Manager | Recorder/Facilitator | Present |
| Division G3 | Member | Present |
| Division G4 | Member | Present |
| PMO | Member | Present |
| DIVENG | Member | Present |
| DIVSURG | Member | Present |
| Brigade Commanders | Member | 3 BCT Authorized Absence |
| Brigade CSM | Member | 3 BCT Authorized Absence |
| Brigade Safety Officer/NCO | Member | 3 BCT Authorized Absence |
| Separate Battalion Commanders | Member | Present |
| Separate Battalion CSM | Member | Present |
| Separate Battalion Safety Officer/NCO | Member | Present |

3. Opening Remarks. MG Thurman pointed out that we have lost 20 soldiers since March. He stated that this was an eye opener when he saw these figures. POV accident trends are headed in the wrong direction and alcohol related incidents are on the rise. The CG has tasked LTC Gallup to look into suicide ideations and the amount of anti-depressant medication that's being prescribed. It is the CG's stated belief that the soldiers do not need the amount being prescribed. POV accidents, DUIs, and suicide ideations are something that we have to get our arms around. We, the leaders in this room, need to think collectively of what we need to do differently to make sure our soldiers are being accountable and making good solid decisions. Individual human

failure is the cause of accidents 90 percent of the time. We need to change the soldiers' mindset. Leaders need to stress personal accountability and responsibility. We need to talk risk mitigation to our soldiers everyday to make sure that when we go back to war we're going to have them with us. One of the things we need to concentrate on to get ready to go back is firing of individual weapons more often. We have the ammunition available. We need to continue to do more convoy live fire training, close quarter combat training, and firing from the ring mounts. Having said that we need to pay attention on ranges. The Division has had a couple of close calls with improper clearing of weapons. That's how we get people hurt. We need to get back to the standard of holding our leaders accountable. If you slack up on the standards, things start going wrong. As we go through this train up we need to ask ourselves "How do we protect the force?" I need the CSMs to continue to stress the importance of the NCOs making on the spot corrections and to do the right thing day in, day out. We need to hold leaders accountable at every level.

4. Safety Council Introduction.

a. Division Safety Mr. Burns stated the goals of the Safety Council, which are to identify and discuss safety and health issues and make recommendations to enhance the overall safety program of the Division. The council membership was identified. A safety video was shown that was very applicable to the youth of our soldiers, would get their attention, and was pertinent to the trends in the upcoming slides.

b. Mr. Burns compared FY 04 accident statistics with FY 05. The trends showed that off duty activities continue to be where our soldiers are being hurt and killed. The slides showed that the Division has reached 2/3 the number of accidents and over 1/2 the injuries compared to last year and we've just started the 2nd quarter of FY 05. Projected on duty focus areas will be army motor vehicles, army combat vehicles, and personal injury as training intensifies and equipment is used more. Off duty concentration will continue to be on POVs, motorcycles, and weapons especially as summer comes and soldiers try to get as much travel and enjoyment during their personal time as possible.

c. Mr. Burns reviewed some of the recent guidance the Division has issued as a result of safety issues or concerns. With the rise of motorcycle accidents the Motorcycle Safety Policy was issued addressing specific safety requirements. The Heater Safety Policy was published with the approach of cold weather. Guidance in progress includes a comprehensive Division Safety SOP and a Severe Weather Policy. Higher headquarters guidance from III Corps includes Head Protection In Tactical Vehicles and the Risk Management And Accident Prevention policy. An overview of additional resources from the Army Safety Center website, the Divisions public folders and other local services available to leaders were also discussed.

d. DIVENG MAJ Davis reviewed the status of safety related work orders. He is coordinating with DPW for funding on the top 20 projects.

CG Guidance: DIVENG to inspect the Divisions dining facilities for any safety concerns.

5. Old business: None.

6. New Business:

a. Aviation Brigade Fire Suppression System.

(1) ISSUE: The fire suppression system is inoperative in the hanger Bldg 7021.

(2) DISCUSSION: The fire suppression systems were tested by DPW and due to failures in the systems caused by the test; the BDE is now required to post fireguards.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: AVN BDE continues to post fireguards as required and continue to track work order status.

(4) STATUS: A work order is open #4I 109604P. The AVN BDE is tracking it until work is completed.

(5) ACTION: The DIVENG write a letter to DPW stating that we are wasting soldiers training time and request that the money to correct the problem be made available.

b. Airfield Parking Pad Deterioration.

(1) ISSUE: Parking Pad Deterioration.

(2) DISCUSSION: The parking pad is deteriorating due to weathering. This deterioration is causing FOD and tripping hazards. Both the unit and airfield operations have placed this pad off limits.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That the unit continues to conduct FOD walks and not use this pad until repaired.

(4) STATUS: There is currently three work orders open for repairing pads: # AF 100124, # 100221P, and # 100143P. Hood Army Airfield and the AVN BDE are currently tracking these

(5) ACTION: DIVENG to add these requests for funds to the letter mentioned above.

c. Range Fire Fighting Training.

(1) ISSUE: Range fire fighting has and will continue to place personnel at risk.

(2) DISCUSSION: Range control requires a 10-man fire fighting detail when conducting gunneries and other ranges. This detail is provided some equipment and is accompanied by contract personnel. This equipment was found to be inadequate in recent fires and the soldiers are not being trained.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That the DPW Fire Department and Range Control research and provide the proper equipment and training that is provided to regular fire fighters.

(4) STATUS: Open.

(5) ACTION: That DIV Safety Mr. Burns coordinate with DPW Fire Department to get appropriate equipment and the extra training needed to safely fight range fires.

d. Illegal Parking Of Vehicles.

(1) ISSUE: Soldier POV and service/delivery vehicles parking on sidewalks, grass, and other non-approved areas near barracks.

(2) DISCUSSION: Fort Hood Regulation 190-5 prohibits parking in these areas. This creates a multi-fold hazard, an increased fire and security hazard as well as a pedestrian hazard.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That leaders enforce the standard of parking in only approved areas with reinforcement from SDOs/CQs. Also have the Garrison Command provide the standard to contractors and enforces the standard with service/delivery vehicles.

(4) STATUS: Open.

(5) ACTION: That DIV Safety Mr. Burns coordinate with Garrison Command to distribute parking standards to contractors and ensure enforcement.

7. Next Safety Council Meeting is currently scheduled for 08 APR 05.

8. Open Discussion.

a. COL Hogg, 2 BCT Commander said the BCT is willing to give up work order priorities on some issues to provide funding for the Aviation Brigades' FOD problems.

b. COL MacWillie, the Aviation Brigade Commander had a late issue, improper ramp marking at Echo ramp.

(1) ISSUE: Hood Army Airfield Echo helicopter parking ramp is not marked IAW Unified Facilities Criteria 3-260-01, thus creating a hazard to Aviation Brigade helicopter operations.

(2) DISCUSSION: This hazard was identified early in the year when Fort Hood Directorate of Aviation Operations was reviewing airfield support requirements for aviation transformation. In August 2004 the scope of work was finalized and included extending the ramp, removal and remarking of taxi and parking lines, replacing lighting, and repair of drains. The improper taxi and parking pad markings increase the potential for helicopter ground taxiing

and parking incidents such as overlapping of blades as more helicopters operate on Echo ramp when 3-4 Aviation receives the remainder of their helicopters in April 2005.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That the Fort Hood DPW provide funding and complete required scope of work for Echo parking ramp. At a minimum remove the current markings and re-mark the taxi lines and parking pads as soon as possible.

(4) STATUS: Scope of work has been approved; but funding is not currently available to complete the work. DIVENG and AVN BDE will continue to track.

c. CG Comments: The CG asked if there were any fire trucks on the FOBs in Iraq. Only the Aviation Brigade had any. The CG stated that he wanted to look into having fire details, trucks, and equipment for the FOBs when we return to Iraq. The G4 is to research this issue and provide the CG with a solution.

d. COL Potts, Chief of Staff remarked that money would be getting tight. Also he reminded commanders that only a physician could prescribe anti-depressants.

e. BG Bivens, the ADC-M commented that we need to reprioritize and look at our DFACs to ensure the ovens and other electrical items are safe from fire hazards. He also stated that Composite Risk Management is good leader stuff. It is an opportunity to coach and mentor younger soldiers and make sure the right thing is done.

f. CSM Riling, 4ID CSM, stated leaders needed to ensure that soldiers are parking in parking lots and not where emergency vehicles need to gain access to facilities. We need to ensure that road guards are posted during PT hours with the right equipment (vests and flashlights) and have the staff duty PCI the road guards. The guards need to have the mindset that these posts are checkpoints.

9. Closing Remarks. MG Thurman commented that if you look around you would see soldiers driving POVs and talking on cell phones. Most accidents are caused by inattention. He stated that he doesn't like to see this and knows none of the rest of the leaders does. We need to enforce standards and get the thinking about safety to the lowest level. Leaders need to exercise good judgment to keep our soldiers safe.

Steadfast & Loyal!



CURTIS D. POTTS

COL, GS

Chief of Staff

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